

you'll see Hugh Morton was a man, a mountain of a man. So with the family that's here, Madame President, at the appropriate time if you would introduce them and I would recommend this resolution to you. Thank You."

Senator Rand:

"It's a phenomenal thing to sit here and listen to this resolution and the things that Hugh Morton did, but he did so much more. The resolution doesn't even mention Mildred the Bear. I loved Mildred. I think every child in North Carolina did as he made all of nature's wonders available to us in so many ways. His photography was unbelievable. Photography, I think, is a work of art, just as painting and music is and he really was North Carolina's Monet, I guess, because of the way he showed it to us through his eyes and the lens of his camera. It was truly amazing and he loved Carolina. He was always on the sidelines taking pictures and it meant so much to us to see those pictures, but I think it meant more to him taking the pictures because he did love it. Then just what he did for clean air and acid rain. He really brought home to all of us just what it meant and what it was doing to his beloved mountains. He would show you what was happening to the vegetation at the high altitudes there. The Scottish Games, of course, at Grandfather Mountain is a wonderful thing for heritage and for the western part of our State. We are just lucky to have people like Hugh Morton. You can't replace him. His vision and his commitment to everything that was good about North Carolina is truly amazing, but we can remember what he did, what he stood for, how he fought so hard in the Mountains, on the Coast, and everywhere in North Carolina to celebrate the beautiful place where we all live and try to preserve it for us. I think he certainly wanted us to be better than we are in that regard because he knew how important it was. I count some of my prized possessions photographs of the mountains he took and I think this will be a constant reminder for me of a wonderful spirit who celebrated what North Carolina really is. Thank You."

Senator Allran:

"I looked at the resolution and looked at the newspaper article that was placed on our desk and I thought how incredibly amazing this individual was, but I think if I had to sum up what is really unique about Hugh Morton it would be that he was somebody who was a very, very successful businessman and a very successful economic developer, but at the same time he was a great conservationist. What he did in conserving Grandfather Mountain in Western North Carolina is such a legacy for everyone. In terms of what that has done for us in terms of economic development, if he had not preserved Grandfather Mountain and not been such a conservationist, we would have lost all that great national treasure that is wonderful for conservation, but has also meant countless numbers of jobs and tourism in that section of the State. He had enough sense to fight for the Ridge Law. If he had not done that and we had not voted for the Ridge Law here at the General Assembly, the mountains would have been trashed. It's not that he just liked Western North Carolina, he did just as much for the east. I didn't have the privilege of knowing Mr. Morton but I did have the privilege of meeting him. I

June 28, 2006